



## **DOWNTOWN TASK FORCE MINUTES**

An Advisory Group to the City Council

Thursday, September 12, 2013  
5:30 PM, Main Street Library

**Council Members:** Mayor Connie Boardman (Chair), Council Member Joe Carchio, Council Member Jim Katapodis

**Committee Members:** Brett Barnes, Dominic Iorfino, Moe Kanoudi, Kim Kramer, Ron Newman, Ralph Palomares, Cesar Pena, J.D. Shafer, Susie Smith, Michael Wentworth, Cathy Werblin, Stephanie Wilson

**City Staff:** Fred Wilson, Chief Ken Small, Scott Hess, Stephanie Beverage, Kellee Fritzal, Teri Baker, Simone Slifman, Captain Russell Reinhart, Chris Cole, Lieutenant Kelly Rodriguez

Mayor Connie Boardman called the meeting to order at 5:30 PM.

### **1. Public Comments**

- Dixie Terry: expressed concern about inability to lease her 8<sup>th</sup> Street residential property due to the presence of Seacliff Recovery Center facilities in her neighborhood.
- Bob Dettloff: feels that any changes that happen in downtown will have an impact on the General Fund and on the entire community; the Council should remain aware that there needs to be a balance between meeting the needs of businesses, residents and visitors.
- Jay Miles: feels that rules should be enforced and that the lack of manpower is an excuse which enables people to feel they are entitled and above the rules, but that they will act accordingly if they know rules are being enforced.
- Richardson Gray: Recommended that there be more resident representation on the City's permanent Economic Development Committee and that votes by residents on the DTF be given more weight on all task force recommendations.
- Andrew Richman: Thanked the Committee for their time and commented on concerns about excess motorcycle noise downtown, as well as the safety of the bike path, as he was run over by another pedestrian.
- Mike DeLaCruz: Expressed concern that the US Open activities affect his neighborhood and referenced inappropriate behaviors including drugs and sexual activity occurring in his yard, extremely confrontational behavior by trespassers, and that there is not enough Police enforcement outside of Main Street but that taking people to jail for breaking the law would act as a deterrent to those who would otherwise come to HB and act inappropriately.

Suggested imposing a tax on bars, Hurley and Vans and questioned why there is an application for another alcohol permit for Bruxie.

- Steve West: said his home was vandalized on July 4<sup>th</sup> and suggested that bars and restaurants not be permitted to sell alcohol after midnight, just like Laguna Beach.
- John Salanoa: Expressed concerns about out of control drug culture, youths hanging out at the Main Street fountain, trash on the ground, and that PD has people scatter when there are fights rather than arresting them, but that these people then disperse into the residential neighborhoods and impact residents.
- Sebastian Dominguez: Stated that he has grown up in downtown, but it appears to be getting out of control and he no longer wants to go there, especially outside of Rocky Mountain Chocolate Factory because of the people who congregate there. There have been broken windows at his house, tires slashed, and a car parked in their driveway was hit twice by a drunk driver.
- John Erskine: Indicated that he came to serve as a resource to the Committee and that he works as an attorney for other cities. Also stated that his 14-year old daughter attended the US Open and was concerned about the behaviors he had seen there. Suggested that skateboarding be eliminated and that revocation hearings be made a part of the CUP process.
- Ed Laughlin: Expressed concerns about the behavior of people who attend the US Open and suggested that the City pursue businesses that attract a better crowd.
- Peggy O'Rourke: Stated that she has made over 50 calls to HBPD over the years due to a variety of issues. She wrote a letter that was published in the OC Register, and has spoken with staff regarding the US Open but was previously told it was being scaled back and did not believe it was. Also expressed concerns about PD being understaffed.
- Rob Playton: Stated his belief that PD is undermanned and that he envisions a solution to be a civilian defense network to encourage security and preparedness and that he would be happy to assist in organizing this effort.
- Althea Santucci: Indicated she moved to HB when it was considered the safest city in the USA, but now it seems that residents are virtually alone on the streets and that their lives are impacted by visitor serving businesses, and that she hopes the DTTF will produce results.
- Lisa Delano: Expressed concern about drunks fighting on her property after the bars close, that she feels there is a bad local homeless problem and that there have been multiple break-ins at her house. Suggested that the streets be closed during events to prevent riots.
- Marilee Madrigal: Business owner of Marilee's Swimwear at The Strand and that she loves being there since relocating in 2009, but had many problems while on Main Street and feels

the city has gone too far. Suggested that policies be set and that she would be happy to provide recommendations.

- Elaine Montgomery: Said she was angry when fireworks came back to the city, and that her garage was nearly burned down in 2012 and would like the US Open of Surfing to return to being just a pure surfing competition.
- Diana Orr: Stated she believes that the alcohol is coming into town when people bring their own and that they are not necessarily purchasing it here. She encouraged the use of shuttles, closing the streets or limiting residential streets to resident parking only.
- Ken Neres: Does the "Downtown Update" on his YouTube channel, and believes action should have been done prior to the US Open; in the early 1990s, downtown was very bad but it was cleaned up because of good policing and that Pacific City will have a big impact but that community involvement like the Downtown Task Force should be happening all the time, not just when bad things happen.
- Larry Davis: Expressed opinion that problems with the bars and the US Open are two separate issues.
- John Chainey: Encouraged community policing and participating in efforts like those which have taken place in Redondo Beach.
- Lara Hobbs: Chose to ride her bicycle to work at 5 Points during the US Open and that she was upset to see how much litter was in the gutters which is in need of being controlled.
- Louise Fiorello: Expressed concern about the 20 restaurants with alcohol proposed to have one CUP at Pacific City and encouraged citizens to take action to prevent that from happening.
- Kim Hammer: Said she is a former world surfing champion featured on the Walk of Fame in HB and that she is very concerned about kids with alcohol at the US Open, that the event has gotten too large and out of control and that closing bars early puts people out in the streets to party afterwards instead.
- Dan Northland: Expressed concern about overcrowding in vacation rentals and that there is no oversight on week-to-week rentals in downtown.
- Steve Daniel: Expressed suggestion for zero tolerance and to provide more police support which is necessary to assist businesses and especially to target skateboarders in the downtown.
- Debbie (no last name given): Said she feels that the laws are unclear and that instead of creating new ones that we should just clarify and enforce what we already have.

- Chris Harp: Said that what we are getting is what we asked for, and that the problem is not just bars but that we have lost a sense of responsibility for our community.
- Richard Plummer: Represents the HB Neighbors, and talked about the group and the tools for action that they recommend, such as looking at issues with entertainment permits. Also requested that sales tax information for the downtown area be publicly available since that is the motivation to the city.
- Jessica (no last name given): Expressed concern about the Wet Electric event and that she doesn't like the city supporting and allowing an event like that to occur.
- Peter DeVine: Asked how much the city makes from the US Open.
- Mr. Jones: Spoke regarding downtown concerns.

## **2. Introductions of Task Force Members**

All Task Force members present introduced themselves.

## **3. Review of Task Force By-laws; Discussion of Goals and Objectives**

Council Member Katapodis moved, and Task Force Member Kanoudi seconded the approval of the By Laws of the Downtown Task Force. Motion passed unanimously.

Mayor Connie Boardman made a motion, Council Member Joe Carchio, seconded, that Council Member Jim Katapodis be elected as Vice Chair of the Downtown Task Force.

## **4. Review of 2009 Downtown Image Committee Recommendations**

This item was tabled to the next meeting.

## **5. Review of:**

**What do you like about Downtown?**

**What would you like changed in Downtown?**

Committee members presented their individual thoughts, suggestions and opinions as to the Goals and Objectives and what they do/do not like about the Downtown, which were then compiled by staff onto tablets. The items will be consolidated into one document and provided to the Task Force prior to the next meeting for consideration of what the majority believes will be the priority for each recommendation and concern to be addressed. Attached is a list of responses given by Committee members pertaining to what they liked or would like to see changed Downtown.

Mayor Boardman inquired as to the preferred process for presenting recommendations to the full City Council, and Council Member Carchio suggested that the Task Force stay on track and keep this as an Ad Hoc Committee intended only to operate for a short time so that items can be addressed and implemented quickly.

Mayor Boardman directed staff to place an item on the agenda for future meetings entitled "Future Agenda Items."

**5. Adjournment – Next Meeting September 26, 2013 – 5:30 PM**

The meeting was adjourned at 8:00 PM.



## **DOWNTOWN TASK FORCE**

An Advisory Group to the City Council

Thursday, September 12, 2013  
5:30 PM — 7:00 PM  
Main Street Library  
525 Main Street

### **What do you like about Downtown?**

#### **Events**

- Events
- Surf contest
- Art Walk
- Surf City Nights
- Special Events

#### **Destinations**

- Hilton/ Hyatt
- Art Center
- Surf Museum
- Retail
  - Good shops
  - Strand
  - Island Cowgirl
  - Shorebreak
- Triangle Park
- Main Street Library

#### **Beach**

- Food/ Bike rental concessions
  - Sugar Shack
  - Good mix
  - Great food
- Clean beaches
- Fire pits
- Biking on beach path/trail
- Dog Beach
- Bolsa Chica Wetlands
- Pier/ Pier Plaza
- 10 miles of beach

#### **General**

- Craftsman homes
- Walking around
- Police substation

- Small town
- Downtown engagement/ Citizen involvement
- Inspirational/ Aspirational lifestyle
- Public Works employees
- Marine Safety
- City Employees

### **What would you like changed in Downtown?**

#### **OFF SITE ALCOHOL SALES**

- Off sale liquor stores a problem
- Less alcohol
- Freeze licenses
- Prohibit sale of 1 oz bottles of alcohol
- Underage drinking
- Drunk patrons/ Impact on neighborhood

#### **ON SITE ALCOHOL SALES**

- Less alcohol
- Freeze licenses
- Bar hours
- Deem approved
- Underage drinking
- Liquor sales
- Drunk patrons/ Impact on neighborhood
- Binge drinking

#### **PARKING**

- Residential Parking Zones
  - Online parking permit system
  - North of Orange residential only
- Parking in neighborhood

#### **PUBLIC SAFETY**

- Public cameras first three blocks of downtown, everywhere
- Lighting
- Not enough Police/Police force staffing
- Homeless/juveniles/ loitering/pan handling/begging
- Bicycle safety on paths
- Drugs
- Homeless playing Guitars
- Kids around Fountain
- Need Zero tolerance
- Skateboard prohibition
- Motorcycle noise
- Curfew

#### **MAINTENANCE**

- Power blast sidewalks
- Trash/Littering

- Maintenance of Pier Plaza
- Stripe bike trail

## **EVENTS**

- 4<sup>th</sup> of July
  - Fireworks and City fireworks show on the beach
  - Vandalism
  - Impacts on Beach
- Ban dogs during events
- Extra security at events
- Add bathrooms at events
- U.S. Open
- State Parks Events

## **ZONING**

- Better mix of business/residential
- Vacation rentals
- Rehab houses
- Add signage
- High rent
- Illegal conversion of garages or other structures
- Improve signage regarding Regulations

## **Ideas/ Suggestions**

- Task Force Members bring forward 2009 list of what was not implemented
- Ambassador Program
- Best practices in like communities, i.e.: Redondo Beach and Laguna Beach
- 2009 – Family Friendly Focus Downtown Image Committee, look at meeting minutes
  - What has been tried before?
- Concentrate on one category at a time/Keep categories down
- Upscale full-service grocery store downtown
- Skateboard parks needed for kids to blow off steam
- Big Picture “Who are we attracting?”
- Accountability/ Resp./ Culture
- Party Image